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Commissioner pleads no contest to campaign-finance charges

By Diana Moskovitz The Miami Herald

A Sunny Isles Beach commissioner pleaded no contest Tuesday to three campaign finance-related charges.

Isaac Aelion pleaded no contest before Miami-Dade County Judge Cristina Miranda to one count of making an illegal cash expenditure, one count of failing to report a campaign contribution and one count of failing to report a campaign expenditure, according to the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office.

All are first-degree misdemeanors.

He was placed on one year of probation.

Prosecutors said Aelion paid cash for an anonymous political mailer that attacked his rivals and encouraged voters to support other candidates, including himself. There was no mention in his campaign finance records of the contribution or the "anonymous" gift, prosecutors said.

A woman who answered the telephone at Aelion's home Tuesday night said he would not comment.

Aelion, a businessman, defeated lawyer Jeniffer Viscarra in a December runoff election for Sunny Isles Beach's Commission Seat 4.

The investigation was a joint effort by Miami-Dade prosecutors and the County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust.

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